

ST HELENA

GOVERNMENT. The Government of St Helena is administered by a Governor, with the aid of a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, 2 *ex-officio* members (the Government Secretary and the Treasurer) and 12 elected members. Committees of the Legislative Council are responsible for the general oversight of the activities of government departments and have, in addition, statutory and administrative functions.

The Governor is also assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the 2 *ex-officio* members and the chairmen of the Council committees.

Governor and C.-in-C.: Sir Thomas Oates, CMG, OBE.

Government Secretary: C. B. Kendall.

Flag: The British Blue Ensign with the shield of the colony in the fly.

AREA AND POPULATION. St Helena, of volcanic origin, is 1,200 miles from the west coast of Africa. Area, 47 sq. miles (121.7 sq. km), with a cultivable area of about 600 acres (243 hectares). The port of the island is Jamestown.

Population (1974), 4,952. Births (living), 102; deaths, 56; marriages, 37. There are 10 Anglican churches and 4 Baptist chapels.

EDUCATION. Three pre-school playgroups, 8 primary, 3 senior and 1 secondary schools controlled by the Government had 1,365 pupils in Sept. 1975.

JUSTICE. Police force, 32; cases dealt with by police magistrate, 95 in 1974.

FINANCE AND TRADE, for calendar years until 1970 and then from 1 April–31 March, in £ sterling:

	1969	1970	1971–72	1972–73	1973–74	1974–75
Revenue ¹	515,422	522,421	954,709	826,956	997,777	1,356,049
Expenditure ¹	547,312	548,308	853,255	804,868	963,795	1,520,101
Exports ²	7,509	200	—	—	—	—
Imports ²	460,960	472,450	403,832	499,146	654,571	1,115,341

¹ Including imperial grants (1969, £257,000; 1970, £279,000; 1971–72, £479,993; 1972–73, £460,100; 1973–74, £588,201; 1974–75, £937,888).

² Excluding government stores.

The revenue from customs was, in 1969, £51,095; 1970, £50,169; 1971–72, £66,677; 1972–73, £84,745; 1973–74, £76,605; 1974–75, £91,998.

The colony's assets at 31 March 1975 exceeded the liabilities by £47,204.

Total trade between Ascension and St Helena and UK (British Department of Trade and Industry returns, in £1,000 sterling):

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Imports to UK	60	53	32	33	49	194	120
Exports and re-exports from UK	783	768	1,006	1,070	1,000	1,288	1,675

COMMUNICATIONS. The number of merchant vessels that called in 1974 was 37; total tonnage entered and cleared was 155,485. There are 48.6 miles of all-weather motor roads.

The Cable & Wireless Ltd cable connects St Helena with Cape Town and Ascension Island. There is a telephone service with 80 miles of wire and 256 telephones.

St Helena Government Broadcasting Station broadcasts in English on medium-waves. Number of radio receivers, 775.

BANKING. Savings-bank deposits on 31 March 1975, £522,436, belonging to 2,367 depositors.

Ascension is a small island of volcanic origin, of 34 sq. miles (88 sq. km), 700 miles north-west of St Helena. In Nov. 1922 the administration was transferred from the Admiralty to the Colonial Office and annexed to the colony of St Helena.